

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

March 28, 2012

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**Meeting Date:** March 28, 2012

**Called to Order:** 6:00 PM

**Location:** 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls MA

**Finance Committee Members Present:** John Hanold, Michael Naughton, Andrew Killeen, Lynn Reynolds and Roy Rosenblatt

**Board of Selectmen Members:** Chris Boutwell and Mark Fairbrother

**Others Present:** Frank Abbondanzio (Town Administrator) and Carolyn Olsen (Town Accountant)

**Minutes**

Finance Committee Moved:

To approve the minutes of March 21, 2012.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To approve the minutes of March 21, 2012.

Vote: 2 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

**Fiscal Year 2013 Water Pollution Control Facility Budget**

The Water Pollution Control Facility budget request totals \$1,824,122. This amount includes \$1,229,454 for wages and expenses, \$371,398 for debt, \$168,311 for employee benefits, and \$54,959 for the DPW subsidiary budget which includes \$8,000 for capital outlay. The town's share of the budget, the cost to treat inflow and infiltration, is \$174,502.

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend appropriating \$1,824,122 for operating the Water Pollution Control Facility in Fiscal Year 2013, to be funded with \$174,502 from taxation and \$1,649,620 from Sewer User Fees.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To recommend appropriating \$1,824,122 for operating the Water Pollution Control Facility in Fiscal Year 2013, to be funded with \$174,502 from taxation and \$1,649,620 from Sewer User Fees.

Vote: 2 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

**Fiscal Year 2013 Colle Budget**

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend appropriating \$89,400 for operating the Colle building in Fiscal Year 2013, to be funded from Colle Receipts Reserved for Appropriation.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

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Selectmen Moved:

To recommend appropriating \$89,400 for operating the Colle building in Fiscal Year 2013, to be funded from Colle Receipts Reserved for Appropriation.

Vote: 2 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

**Fiscal Year 2013 Airport Budget**

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend appropriating \$37,625 for operating the Airport in Fiscal Year 2013, to be funded with \$6,164 from Taxation and \$31,461 from Airport User Fees.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To recommend appropriating \$37,625 for operating the Airport in Fiscal Year 2013, to be funded with \$6,164 from Taxation and \$31,461 from Airport User Fees.

Vote: 2 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

**Fiscal Year 2013 Franklin County Technical School Assessment**

The Franklin County Technical School's assessment to Montague is \$737,865. It was previously agreed to use \$24,000 from the Franklin County Tech School Stabilization Fund towards the assessment. This is roughly the amount of assessment increase attributable to the additional 3 students from Montague

- Mr. Naughton suggested it would make sense to pay more of this assessment from Stabilization, especially since the Fiscal Year 2013 assessment includes \$12,171 as a capital assessment.
- Mr. Killeen likes the idea of establishing a principle for using stabilization for a school district.
- Mr. Rosenblatt agrees that funding long term large amount for capital should come from stabilization rather than taxation.
- Mr. Naughton suggested that if in future years Montague has fewer students it would be nice to move the savings into the Franklin County Tech School Stabilization Fund.

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend appropriating \$737,865 for the Fiscal Year 2013 Franklin County Technical School assessment, to be funded with \$24,000 from the Franklin County Tech School Stabilization Fund, \$12,000 from Town Stabilization and \$701,865 from Taxation.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To recommend appropriating \$737,865 for the Fiscal Year 2013 Franklin County Technical School assessment, to be funded with \$24,000 from the Franklin

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County Tech School Stabilization Fund, \$12,000 from Town Stabilization and \$701,865 from Taxation.

Vote: 2 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

**Fiscal Year 2013 Town Operating Budget**

There are 3 remaining supplemental requests.

- \$2,000 stipend for the Information Technology Administrator, which would go into the Shared Costs budget.
- \$37,492 for a Lead Mechanic, which would go into the DPW Budget
- \$17,000 for a part-time Health Agent, which would go into the Board of Health budget.

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend incorporating the request for \$2,000 for a stipend for the Information Technology Administrator into the Shared Costs Budget.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To recommend incorporating the request for \$2,000 for a stipend for the Information Technology Administrator into the Shared Costs Budget.

Vote: 2 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend incorporating the request for \$37,492 for a Lead Mechanic into the DPW Budget.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To recommend incorporating the request for \$37,492 for a Lead Mechanic into the DPW Budget.

Vote: 2 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend incorporating the request for \$17,000 for a part-time Health Agent into the Board of Health Budget.

Vote: 5 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To recommend incorporating the request for \$17,000 for a part-time Health Agent into the Board of Health Budget.

Vote: 2 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend \$7,527,101 for the Fiscal Year 2013 Town Operating Budget, to be funded with \$125,000 of Free Cash and \$7,402,101 of Taxation.

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Vote:   5   In Favor   0   Opposed   0   Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To recommend \$7,527,101 for the Fiscal Year 2013 Town Operating Budget, to be funded with \$125,000 of Free Cash and \$7,402,101 of Taxation.

Vote:   2   In Favor   0   Opposed   0   Abstained

**Fiscal Year 2013 Gill-Montague Regional School District Assessment**

The Gill-Montague Regional School District's School Committee voted a total budget of \$16,567,640 last night. Montague's share is \$7,850,604. The town has used \$125,000 of Free Cash towards this assessment in recent years.

With the recent adjustment of New Growth and Allowance for Abatements and Exemptions, the affordable assessment for Fiscal Year 2013 is now \$7,696,422. This is a decrease of about \$34,000 from the affordable assessment used during most of the budget process. Mr. Hanold suggested using Stabilization for the difference between the affordable assessment and the actual assessment to as a way to publicize the gap between the two numbers.

Mr. Killeen added that using Stabilization would be the responsible way of handling the difference between the affordable assessment and the actual assessment.

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend appropriating \$7,850,604 for the Fiscal Year 2013 Gill-Montague Regional School District assessment, to be funded with \$125,000 from Free Cash, \$154,182 from the Town Stabilization Fund and \$7,571,422 from Taxation.

Vote:   5   In Favor   0   Opposed   0   Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To recommend appropriating \$7,850,604 for the Fiscal Year 2013 Gill-Montague Regional School District assessment, to be funded with \$125,000 from Free Cash, \$154,182 from the Town Stabilization Fund and \$7,571,422 from Taxation.

Vote:   2   In Favor   0   Opposed   0   Abstained

**Reconsider Funding for Special Articles**

Finance Committee Moved:

To change the recommend funding source of the \$54,055 for existing DPW leases from Free Cash to Taxation.

Vote:   5   In Favor   0   Opposed   0   Abstained

Selectmen Moved:

To change the recommend funding source of the \$54,055 for existing DPW leases from Free Cash to Taxation.

Vote:   2   In Favor   0   Opposed   0   Abstained

**Appropriating Funds Into Stabilization**

Assuming all recommendations are approved at Town Meetings, there will be about \$109,000 of available Free Cash. Mr. Abbondanzio is aware of at least two appropriation requests that will be on the warrant for the Special Town Meeting on May 5, 2012. There are no firm dollar amounts at this time.

Mr. Naughton suggested not going forward with a transfer now but to plan to do so in the fall if we have a significant amount of Free Cash at that point.

**Board of Selectmen adjourned at 7:20 PM**

**Finance Committee Report to Town Meeting**

Mr. Hanold asked who would be interested in collecting and incorporating comments, and providing a finished document. Mr. Killeen volunteered. Mr. Hanold suggested a deadline of 4/4/12 for comments for Mr. Killeen, and a draft e-mailed to members by noon of 4/9/12.

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:27 PM**

**List of Documents and Exhibits –**

- Minutes of March 21, 2012
- Franklin County Tech School revised assessment for Fiscal Year 2013
- Gill-Montague Regional School district assessment for Fiscal Year 2013

**Next Meetings**

- 6:00 PM April 11, 2012      Final votes on budget, final wording on report